

MEROMORPHIC LINE BUNDLES AND HOLOMORPHIC GERBES

EDOARDO BALLICO AND OREN BEN-BASSAT

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ABSTRACT. We show that any complex manifold that has a divisor whose normalization has non-zero first Betti number either has a non-trivial holomorphic gerbe which does not trivialize meromorphically or a meromorphic line bundle not equivalent to any holomorphic line bundle. Similarly, higher Betti numbers of divisors correspond to higher gerbes or meromorphic gerbes. We give several new examples.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let X be a complex manifold. Unless stated otherwise, we always work in the classical analytic topology. Let \mathcal{O} denote the sheaf of holomorphic functions. Let \mathcal{O}^\times denote the nowhere vanishing holomorphic functions and \mathcal{M}^\times the non-zero meromorphic functions. Consider the short exact sequence of sheaves of groups on X

$$(1) \quad 1 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}^\times \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^\times \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times \rightarrow 1$$

and its induced short exact sequence of cohomology groups

$$(2) \quad 1 \rightarrow H^p(X, \mathcal{M}^\times) / H^p(X, \mathcal{O}^\times) \rightarrow H^p(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times) \rightarrow \ker[H^{p+1}(X, \mathcal{O}^\times) \rightarrow H^p(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)] \rightarrow 1.$$

We use $Div(X) = H^0(\mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$ to denote the group of divisors on X and $IDiv(X)$ to denote the set of irreducible divisors. We will relate the topology of divisors inside X to the middle term by producing an injective map

$$B : H^p(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^p(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$$

from the cohomology of the normalization \tilde{D} of any divisor D in X . In the case $p = 1$ one can then consider the resulting classes in $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ which are represented by holomorphic gerbes or if such a class is trivial, one produces classes represented by meromorphic

line bundles. Most of our examples then use techniques of classical algebraic geometry to produce divisors whose normalization has interesting topology. We comment on the analytic and topological characteristics of the resulting gerbes.

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1.1. Comparison to other works. Before this note was finished we found the article [7] of X. Chen, M. Kerr, and J. Lewis that produced many examples of non-trivial meromorphic line bundles on smooth projective complex algebraic varieties. This contradicts the sometimes heard claim that meromorphic line bundles on smooth projective complex algebraic varieties are trivial. A similar yet more general construction was realized independently by the second author, so we will give here a rough comparison. Let X be a complex manifold. Suppose that we have a non-constant meromorphic function f on X whose divisor $\operatorname{div}(f) = D = \sum m_i D_i$ is supported on a normal subvariety $\cup_{\{i|m_i \neq 0\}} D_i$ of X . Let $n \in H^1(X, \mathbb{Z})$ be some cohomology class which restricts to a non-zero element in at least one of the $H^1(D_i, \mathbb{Z})$ represented in $\operatorname{div}(f)$ by a non-zero coefficient m_i . Consider the image of $f \otimes n$ under the cup product

$$\mathcal{M}^\times(X) \otimes H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times).$$

Now its easy to see that the divisor along D of the image of our element is just $\sum m_i n|_{D_i}$ and so by our assumption on the class of n , the class in $H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ is non-trivial. This kind of construction appeared in [7] where it was shown that in general, $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ do not vanish when X is smooth and projective. Upon reading about this construction, one may wonder if the divisors can be used directly, not just to measure non-triviality, but to produce themselves meromorphic line bundles. This is our approach. Such a philosophy is inherent in Brylinski's work [4] in which he outlined a framework for the categorification of Beilinson's regulator maps from algebraic K-theory to Deligne cohomology. Both [7] and [4] are expressed in terms of sheaves and also cover higher cohomology classes. In Brylinski's case, he would produce starting from some integral cohomology classes on divisors a pair consisting of a holomorphic n -gerbe and a meromorphic trivialization. When this holomorphic n -gerbe is trivial, a trivialization of it is a meromorphic $(n-1)$ -gerbe. So for example, a meromorphic line bundle is a meromorphic trivialization of a trivial holomorphic gerbe. As a consequence of the current paper we produce new examples of complex manifolds admitting non-trivial meromorphic line bundles, perhaps the most surprising being the affine plane \mathbb{C}^2 and the projective plane \mathbb{P}^2 (see subsection 4.2). Constructions of this type contradict statements sometimes seen in the literature such as an incidental remark in line 2 of the proof of Theorem 9 of [13] concerning the absence of non-trivial meromorphic line bundles on smooth projective varieties. Other examples of such statements are given in [7]. We answer the open question of [7] in subsection 4.1. Some material on material on holomorphic gerbes both old and recent can be found in [6], [5], [19], [16], [3] and [18].

2. THE MAIN TECHNICAL TOOLS

2.1. The Splitting Construction and the map B . The construction in this section was inspired by Brylinski's paper [4] where he give an algebro-geometric (or complex

analytic) construction of holomorphic gerbes analogous to the construction of a line bundles from a divisor. We produce a splitting of one of the maps used in his construction which we call *div* below. Let D be a divisor on X , Y the support of D and ν_Y the normalization \tilde{Y} of Y followed by the inclusion of Y into X .

$$\nu_Y : \tilde{Y} \rightarrow X$$

We have a surjective map of sheaves of groups

$$\text{div} : \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times \rightarrow \nu_{Y*} \mathbb{Z}_{\tilde{Y}}$$

$$f \mapsto [C \mapsto \text{div}(f, \nu_Y(C))].$$

This means the following: for any open set U and each component C of $\nu_Y^{-1}(U \cap Y)$ we assign the coefficient of $\nu_Y(C)$ in $\text{div}(f) \cap U$. This map has a splitting as sheaves of groups.

In order to define the splitting, we first need to choose an open cover $\{U_i\}$ with the property that all irreducible components $Y_i^{(\alpha)}$ of $U_i \cap Y$ are locally irreducible and there exist holomorphic functions $f_i^{(\alpha)}$ on U_i whose divisor is $Y_i^{(\alpha)}$. The fact that such a cover exists follows from the noetherian property of complex analytic spaces: in $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y}$ the ideal (0) has a primary decomposition and each irreducible component at y (there are finitely many) stays irreducible in a small neighborhood of y . See Proposition 11 page 55–56 and Corollary 1 page 68 of [20] for these facts.

Note that on U_i we can identify $\nu_{Y*} \mathbb{Z}$ with $\prod_\alpha j_*^{(\alpha)} \mathbb{Z}$ where the maps $j^{(\alpha)}$ are the restrictions of ν_Y to the component $Y_i^{(\alpha)}$:

$$j^{(\alpha)} : Y_i^{(\alpha)} \rightarrow X.$$

We now define maps of sheaves of groups

$$(3) \quad \begin{aligned} s_i : (\nu_{Y*} \mathbb{Z}_{\tilde{Y}})|_{U_i} &\rightarrow \mathcal{M}^\times|_{U_i} \\ n_i^{(\alpha)} &\mapsto \prod_\alpha (f_i^{(\alpha)})^{n_i^{(\alpha)}}. \end{aligned}$$

To see that these maps glue together to a map of sheaves

$$(4) \quad s : \nu_{Y*} \mathbb{Z}_{\tilde{Y}} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times$$

we evaluate on $U_i \cap U_j$ the function

$$(s_i(n_i^{(\alpha)}))(s_j(n_j^{(\beta)}))^{-1} = \left(\prod_\alpha (f_i^{(\alpha)})^{n_i^{(\alpha)}}\right) \left(\prod_\beta (f_j^{(\beta)})^{n_j^{(\beta)}}\right)^{-1}$$

in the case where $n_i^{(\alpha)}$ and $n_j^{(\beta)}$ agree on the intersection. We need to show that this function is holomorphic and nowhere vanishing. For any component of $Y \cap U_i \cap U_j$ appearing in the intersection $U_i \cap U_j$ there are unique corresponding components $Y_i^{(\alpha)}$ and $Y_j^{(\beta)}$ and the function $f_i^{(\alpha)}$ can be written as $f_j^{(\beta)}$ multiplied by a holomorphic function. Also, for any such γ , $n_i^{(\alpha)}$ and $n_j^{(\beta)}$ are the same numbers $n_{i,j}^{(\gamma)}$. On the other hand, for any α or β not corresponding to a component of the intersection, the functions $f_i^{(\alpha)}$ and $f_j^{(\beta)}$ are already holomorphic and nowhere vanishing. It is also easy to see that the definition of s is independent of the choices made in the construction.

Lemma 1. *This induces a splitting of the previous map:*

$$\operatorname{div} \circ s = \operatorname{id}_{\nu_{Y*}\mathbb{Z}_{\tilde{Y}}}.$$

As a result, for any complex manifold X and any divisor D in X with support Y there is a subgroup

$$H^p(\tilde{Y}, \mathbb{Z}) \subset H^p(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$$

where \tilde{Y} is the normalization of Y .

Proof. In order to see that it is a splitting, it is enough to show it locally after restriction to each U_i . The components of $\nu_Y^{-1}(Y \cap U_i)$ are precisely the $\nu_Y^{-1}(Y_i^{(\alpha)})$ and hence $\nu_Y(\nu_Y^{-1}(Y_i^{(\alpha)})) = Y_i^{(\alpha)}$. The divisor of $\prod_\alpha (f_i^{(\alpha)})^{n_i^{(\alpha)}}$ along $Y_i^{(\alpha)}$ is $n_i^{(\alpha)}$.

Therefore

$$(5) \quad \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times = \nu_{Y*}\mathbb{Z}_{\tilde{Y}} \oplus \mathcal{C}_Y$$

for some complement sheaf of abelian groups \mathcal{C}_Y . The normalization map ν_Y is a proper holomorphic map and its fibers are finite sets ([20], part (a) of Definition 2 at page 114 and Theorem 4 at page 118, or [12], Appendix to Chapter 2). Furthermore Theorem 4.1.5 (i) (b) of [8] says (as is true for the pushforward of a constructible sheaf under any proper analytic map) that the sheaf $\nu_{Y*}\mathbb{Z}_{\tilde{Y}}$ is constructible with respect to some analytic Whitney stratification of X . Therefore by Theorem 4.1.9 of [8] X has a cover by open sets U such that

$$H^0(U, R^q \nu_{Y*}\mathbb{Z}_{\tilde{Y}}) = (R^q \nu_{Y*}\mathbb{Z}_{\tilde{Y}})_u.$$

for some point u of U . Finally by Theorem 2.3.26 of page 41 of [8] we have

$$(R^q \nu_{Y*}\mathbb{Z}_{\tilde{Y}})_u = H^q(\nu_Y^{-1}(u), \mathbb{Z})$$

which vanishes for $q > 0$. Therefore the Leray-Serre spectral sequence for ν_Y gives

$$H^p(\tilde{Y}, \mathbb{Z}) = H^p(X, \nu_{Y*}\mathbb{Z}) \subset H^p(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times).$$

□

Denote by B the resulting group homomorphism

$$(6) \quad B : \bigoplus_{D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)} H^p(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^p(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times).$$

Proposition 1. *Let X be an n -dimensional smooth and connected projective variety, $n \geq 1$. Fix an integer $t \geq 1$. Then $H^{2n-2}(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$ contains a subgroup isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^t .*

Proof. Fix t distinct smooth and connected hypersurfaces D_1, \dots, D_t of X . Set

$$Y = D_1 \cup \dots \cup D_t.$$

Thus the normalization \tilde{Y} of Y is the disjoint union $D_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup D_t$. Thus $H^{2n-2}(\tilde{Y}, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}^t$. Apply Lemma 1.

□

2.2. Algebraic Structure. Suppose now that $X = X_{Zar}(\mathbb{C})$ where X_{Zar} is some regular scheme of finite type over \mathbb{C} . Consider the inclusion map

$$j : X \rightarrow X_{Zar}$$

We have the following short exact sequences of sheaves and groups together with morphisms between them

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & 1 & & 1 & & 1 & \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 1 \longrightarrow & j^{-1}\mathcal{O}_{alg}^\times & \longrightarrow & j^{-1}\mathcal{M}_{alg}^\times & \longrightarrow & j^{-1}(\mathcal{M}_{alg}^\times/\mathcal{O}_{alg}^\times) & \longrightarrow 1 \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 1 \longrightarrow & \mathcal{O}^\times & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}^\times & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathcal{O}^\times & \longrightarrow 1 \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 1 \longrightarrow & \mathcal{O}^\times/j^{-1}\mathcal{O}_{alg}^\times & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}^\times/j^{-1}\mathcal{M}_{alg}^\times & \longrightarrow & (\mathcal{M}^\times/\mathcal{O}^\times)/(j^{-1}(\mathcal{M}_{alg}^\times/\mathcal{O}_{alg}^\times)) & \longrightarrow 1 \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 & 1 & & 1 & & 1. &
 \end{array}$$

The sheaf \mathcal{M}_{alg}^\times is a constant sheaf of non-zero rational functions and the pullback is the constant sheaf

$$j^{-1}\mathcal{M}_{X,alg}^\times = \mathbb{C}(X)^\times$$

in the analytic topology.

Lemma 2. *Let X be a smooth projective algebraic variety considered as a complex manifold. Let f be a non-zero rational function on X such that the support of every irreducible divisor appearing in $\text{div}(f)$ is normal and locally irreducible. Then the diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 H^p(X, \mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H^p(X, \mathbb{C}(X)^\times) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \bigoplus_{D \in \text{Div}(X)} H^p(D, \mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H^p(X, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathcal{O}^\times)
 \end{array}$$

commutes. The top map is the cup product with $f \in \mathbb{C}(X)^\times$. If $\text{div}(f) = \sum_i m_i D_i$ then the vertical map on the left hand side is

$$N \otimes f \mapsto \sum_i m_i N|_{D_i}$$

Proof. This follows from the commutativity of the diagram below

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Z}_X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathbb{C}(X)^\times \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \bigoplus_{D \in \text{Supp}(\text{div}(f))} \iota_{D*} \mathbb{Z}_D & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times \end{array}$$

where the top arrow is $n \mapsto f^n$ and where the bottom arrow comes from the map s defined in equation (4). □

Therefore given locally irreducible divisors D_i and classes $n_i \in H^p(D_i, \mathbb{Z})$. The tensor product $\otimes_i B(n_i)^{m_i}$ comes from a rational function f if $\text{div}(f) = \sum_i m_i D_i$. In the case where X is non-compact, one can replace $\mathbb{C}(X)^\times$ with $\mathcal{M}^\times(X)$ in the above discussion. Generic values of B do not come from global functions.

2.3. Topological Classes of Higher Gerbes coming from Divisors. We can explain in purely topological terms the map

$$H^p(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^{p+1}(X, \mathbb{Z})$$

which we have for any divisor D of X . It is a composition of three maps

$$H^p(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{B} H^p(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times) \rightarrow H^{p+1}(X, \mathcal{O}^\times) \rightarrow H^{p+2}(X, \mathbb{Z})$$

where B was defined in (6) and the second and third maps are connecting maps from the long exact sequences associated to (1) and (7). It is shown in [4] that the combined map is the pushforward (or transfer) map on integral cohomology.

3. PRODUCING DIVISORS WITH INTERESTING TOPOLOGY

In this section we produce lower bounds on the Betti numbers of the normalizations of divisors. Note that if we are interested in the non-triviality of (for instance) $H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ there is a simple criterion for this in the case where

$$H^2(X, \mathcal{O}) = 0.$$

In these cases, by Lemma 1 and Remark 1 it is sufficient to find an integral divisor $D \subset X$ whose normalization \tilde{D} satisfies that the rank of $H^1(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{Z})$ is larger than the rank of $H^3(X, \mathbb{Z}) \cong H^2(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$. In section 5 we look at the corresponding problem at a boundary point, i.e. we take X as a proper open subset of another complex manifold Y , take $P \in \bar{X} \setminus X$.

Remark 1. Fix an integer $i \geq 1$ and assume that $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$ is non-trivial. If we know that $H^{i+1}(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ is trivial then can conclude that $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ is non-trivial. More generally it is sufficient to find a subgroup of $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$ strictly larger than the abelian group $H^{i+1}(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$. Conversely, if we know that the natural map $H^i(X, \mathcal{O}^\times) \rightarrow H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ is not surjective, then $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$ is non-trivial.

In sections 3 and 5.1 we will use the second part of Remark 1 to show that $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$ is non-trivial. In those sections we will show that for many X the abelian group $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ is too large to be a quotient of the abelian group $H^i(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$.

Lemma 3. *Let X be a smooth and connected quasi-projective complex surface. Fix an integer $r > 0$. Then there exists a closed and smooth divisor $D \subset X$ such that $H^1(D, \mathbb{Z})$ has \mathbb{Z}^r as a direct factor.*

Proof.

Fix any effective divisor $D \subset X$. Since D is quasi-projective, all cohomology groups $H^i(D, \mathbb{Z})$ are finitely generated. The universal coefficient theorem shows that $H^1(D, \mathbb{Z})$ has no torsion. Hence it is sufficient to prove the existence of an effective divisor D such that $\mathbb{Z}^r \subseteq H^1(D, \mathbb{Z})$. Since X is a quasi-projective and smooth surface, there is an open embedding $X \hookrightarrow Y$ with Y a smooth and connected projective surface. Fix a very ample divisor H on Y . Set $c = H \cdot H$ (self-intersection) and $e = K_X \cdot H$. Since H is ample, c is a positive integer. For every integer $k > 0$ the divisor kH is very ample. Hence a general $D_k \in |kH|$ is a smooth and connected curve. Call g_k its genus. The adjunction formula gives $k^2c + ke = 2g_k - 2$. Thus for $k \gg 0$ we have $2g_k \geq r$. Fix any such integer k and set $D = D_k \cap X$. Since D is the complement in D_k of finitely many points and $H^1(D_k, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{2g_k}$, we are done. \square

Corollary 1. *Let X be a smooth and connected quasi-projective surface such that $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}) = 0$. Then for every integer $t > 0$ the abelian group $H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)/H^1(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ contains a subgroup isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^t .*

Proof.

Look at the exponential sequence of sheaves on X given by

$$(7) \quad 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}^\times \rightarrow 1.$$

From (7) we get $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}^\times) \subseteq H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$. Thus $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ is a finitely generated abelian group. Apply Lemma 3 and Remark 1. \square

Let X be a smooth and connected projective surface, i.e. take the set-up of Corollary 1 with X is compact. The group $H^2(X, \mathcal{O})$ is a finite-dimensional \mathbb{C} -vector space and its dimension is usually denoted with $p_g(X)$. We have $p_g(X) = 0$ if X is a ruled surface and in particular if X is a rational surface. There are other scattered examples with $p_g(X) = 0$, e.g. the Enriques surfaces or some surfaces of general type with $q(X) = h^1(X, \mathcal{O}) = 0$ (for surfaces of general type $p_g(X) = 0$ implies $q(X) = 0$, because $\chi(\mathcal{O}_X) \geq 0$ for every surface X of general type). The rational surfaces and the blowing-ups of Enriques surfaces satisfies $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}) = H^2(X, \mathcal{O}) = 0$.

Theorem 1. *Let X be an n -dimensional connected projective manifold, $n \geq 2$. Then there exists an integral closed divisor $D \subset X$ such that the integral cohomology of its normalization \tilde{D} contains (up to torsion) a subring given by the cohomology of any smooth projective variety A of dimension $n - 1$. To be more specific*

$$H^*(A, \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tors}(H^*(A, \mathbb{Z})) \subset H^*(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tors}(H^*(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{Z})).$$

By taking A to be a product of a curve with itself $n - 1$ times we get that for every $t > 0$ one can find a divisor D such that

$$\mathbb{Z}^t \subset H^i(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{Z})$$

for all integers i such that $1 \leq i \leq 2n - 3$.

Proof.

If $n = 2$, then the result is true by Lemma 3 even if X is only assumed to be quasi-projective (and with $D = \tilde{D}$ smooth). Assume $n \geq 3$. Let A be an $(n - 1)$ -dimensional smooth projective variety. Fix any embedding

$$j : A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^r,$$

where $r \geq 2n - 1$ and take a general projection of $j(A)$ into \mathbb{P}^n from a general $(n - r - 1)$, dimensional linear subspace $W \subset \mathbb{P}^r$. Since $\dim(A) + \dim(W) < r$, for general W we have $W \cap j(A) = \emptyset$. Thus the linear projection induces a morphism

$$u : A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n.$$

Since $W \cap j(A) = \emptyset$, the morphism u is finite. Since $\dim(A) < n$ and W is general, u is birational onto its image ([15], Ex. I.4.9, page 31). Hence because A is normal (in fact smooth) and u is finite and birational onto its image, we can conclude that

$$u : A \rightarrow u(A)$$

is the normalization map ([20], Definition 2 at page 114). Fix a finite and dominant morphism

$$f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n.$$

Let $D \subset X$ be any irreducible $(n - 1)$ -dimensional component of $f^{-1}(u(A))$. Thus $f(D) = u(A)$. Let

$$\mu : \tilde{D} \rightarrow D$$

be the normalization map. The morphism

$$f \circ \mu : \tilde{D} \rightarrow u(A)$$

is a finite dominant morphism between integral varieties. Since A is the normalization of $u(A)$ the universal property of normal varieties ([15], Ex. I.3.17, or [21], Theorem 5 at p. 115, or [12], Proposition at p. 121) implies the existence of a morphism

$$g : \tilde{D} \rightarrow A$$

such that

$$f \circ \mu = u \circ g.$$

The map g is finite and has some topological degree $m > 0$. Let

$$r : \tilde{D}' \rightarrow \tilde{D}$$

be a resolution of singularities of \tilde{D} which is known to exist by Hironaka's Theorem [17]. The morphism r has degree 1 and \tilde{D}' is a smooth projective manifold of dimension $n - 1$. Now we use the pushforward (or transfer) map on cohomology (see for example Definition VIII.10.5 on page 310 of [10]). For any class $c \in H^p(A, \mathbb{Z})$ the projection formula [10] gives

$$(g \circ r)_*(g \circ r)^*c = c \cup (g \circ r)_*1 = mc.$$

Therefore the kernel of $(g \circ r)^*$ is contained in the kernel of multiplication by m . Hence the ring homomorphism $r^* \circ g^* = (g \circ r)^*$ is injective, up to torsion. Therefore g^* in an injective homomorphism of rings, up to torsion. If one choses $A = C^{n-1}$ for C a curve of genus $g \geq \max\{2, t\}$ then $H^i(A, \mathbb{Z})$ has no torsion and from the proof we actually see that g^* is injective. The Künneth formula therefore tells us that \mathbb{Z}^t is contained in $H^i(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{Z})$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2n - 3$.

□

As in Corollary 1 from Theorem 1 (case $i \leq 2n-3$) and Proposition 1 (case $i = 2n-2$) we get the following result.

Corollary 2. *Fix an integer $t > 0$. Let X be an n -dimensional connected projective manifold, $n \geq 2$ such that $H^i(X, \mathcal{O}) = 0$. Then $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)/H^i(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ contains a subgroup isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^t .*

Proof. Since $H^i(X, \mathcal{O}) = 0$, the exponential sequence shows that $H^i(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ is a subgroup of $H^{i+1}(X, \mathbb{Z})$. Hence $H^i(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ is finitely generated. Call ρ its rank. Apply Theorem 1 (case $i \leq 2n-3$) and Proposition 1 (case $i = 2n-2$) with respect to the integer $t' = \rho + t$. □

4. CONSEQUENCES AND EXAMPLES

4.1. The Question of Chen, Kerr, and Lewis. We can now answer a question posed by Chen, Kerr, and Lewis in [7]. They asked if on a smooth projective complex algebraic variety X , if the sheaves $\mathcal{M}^\times/\mathbb{C}(X)^\times$ are acyclic. The answer is negative. For convenience we show that the answer is negative in a two specific examples although it seems to be a fairly general phenomenon. We will use the short exact sequence

$$(8) \quad 1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(X)^\times \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^\times \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathbb{C}(X)^\times \rightarrow 1$$

For $X = \mathbb{P}^2$ over the complex numbers, $H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathbb{C}(X)^\times)$ and $H^2(X, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathbb{C}(X)^\times)$ cannot vanish. The first example is easier. Indeed, $H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ is trivial as can be seen from the exponential sequence (7). Therefore a quotient group of $H^1(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ is given by $H^1(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathcal{O}^\times)$. This is a huge group as shown in Lemma 3. It contains for instance the first integral cohomology of an elliptic curve sitting inside \mathbb{P}^2 . Therefore $H^1(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ cannot be trivial. Of course, by change of coefficient groups and the fact that $H^1(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{Z}) = 0$ we have that $H^1(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times)$ is trivial. Therefore the long exact sequence associated to the exact sequence (8) shows that $H^1(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times)$ contains $H^1(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ and so cannot be trivial.

Now we prove the non-triviality of $H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times)$. Look at the long exact sequence associated to the exponential sequence (7). It shows that

$$H^3(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}^\times) \cong H^4(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{P}^2].$$

Therefore the long exact sequence associated to (8) reads

$$\{1\} = H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}^\times) \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times) \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathcal{O}^\times) \rightarrow H^4(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{P}^2].$$

On the other hand by change of coefficient groups $H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times) = \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times$. Let C_1 and C_2 be two smooth curves of degrees d_1 and d_2 in \mathbb{P}^2 such that $d_1 \neq d_2$. They have fundamental classes $[C_1] \in H^2(C_1, \mathbb{Z})$ and $[C_2] \in H^2(C_2, \mathbb{Z})$. The pushforward of either class to $H^4(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{Z})$ is the generator, $[\mathbb{P}^2]$ because this corresponds via Poincare Duality to pushing forward a point in the zeroth homology group. Therefore using subsection 2.3 and the map B defined in equation (6) we can consider the class

$$B([C_1]) \otimes B([C_2])^{-1} \in H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathcal{O}^\times).$$

This maps to the trivial class in $H^4(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{Z})$ and therefore comes from some class

$$B([C_1]) \otimes \widetilde{B([C_2])}^{-1} \in H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times).$$

Suppose that the natural map

$$\mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times = H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times) \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times)$$

were surjective and consider a lift to $H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times)$ of the class $B([C_1]) \otimes \widetilde{B([C_2])^{-1}}$. We can write this lift as the cup product of an element $N \in H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$ and a function $f \in \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times$. We denote this cup product as the element $f^N \in H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)^\times)$. This immediately means that we must have integers e_1 and e_2 such that

$$\text{div}(f) = e_1 C_1 + e_2 C_2$$

where $e_1 d_1 + e_2 d_2 = 0$. Then the divisor of f^N and the divisor of $B([C_1]) \otimes B([C_2])^{-1}$ must agree as elements of $\bigoplus_{D \in \text{IDiv}(\mathbb{P}^2)} H^2(D, \mathbb{Z})$. Thus the divisor of f^N is

$$(Ne_1 d_1, Ne_2 d_2) \in H^2(C_1, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^2(C_2, \mathbb{Z})$$

because the natural restriction maps $H^2(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^2(C_i, \mathbb{Z})$ are multiplication by d_i . However the divisor of $B([C_1]) \otimes B([C_2])^{-1}$ is just

$$(1, -1) \in H^2(C_1, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^2(C_2, \mathbb{Z})$$

therefore the agreement of these divisors implies $d_1, d_2 = 1$ and so the degrees need to agree which contradicts our assumption.

4.2. The Examples of \mathbb{C}^2 and \mathbb{P}^2 .

Example 1. *As we will now see, even \mathbb{C}^2 admits non-trivial meromorphic line bundles! In more generality we observe that any complex manifold X admits non-trivial meromorphic line bundles as long as $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ is trivial and X has an irreducible divisor D with $H^1(D, \mathbb{Z}) \neq 0$. Another simple example of this would be $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$ where the divisor is a smooth curve of genus greater than or equal to one, or any curve with non-zero first Betti number. Let $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1 \cong Q \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$ be a smooth quadratic curve, meeting some divisor at infinity at two points. Let $V = \mathbb{C}^2$ be the compliment of the divisor at infinity and $D = Q \cap V \cong \mathbb{C}^\times$. Let $n \in H^1(V, \mathbb{Z}_D) = H^1(D, \mathbb{Z})$ be a non-trivial element. Then by the above argument, we can consider n as a non-trivial element of $H^1(\mathbb{C}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$. Because all gerbes are trivial in this situation, we see that we can lift n to a non-trivial element of $H^1(\mathbb{C}^2, \mathcal{M}^\times)$. In fact for any X as above*

$$\bigoplus_{D \in \text{IDiv}(X)} H^1(D, \mathbb{Z}) \subset H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times) / H^1(X, \mathcal{O}^\times).$$

The cases of \mathbb{C}^2 and \mathbb{P}^2 also follows from Remark 1 and Corollary 1.

4.3. Complex Tori. A generic complex torus X has no global divisors and so sequence (1) shows that we have $\text{Pic}^0(X) \subset H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$. On the other hand if a complex torus is algebraic, then all holomorphic line bundles are meromorphically trivializable. Holomorphic gerbes on complex tori were studied extensively in [3]. Even when the Neron-Severi group of a complex torus is zero, it was shown that this complex torus can still have non-trivial holomorphic gerbes hence the correspondence we have studied in this paper producing classes in $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ from divisors cannot be surjective in general.

5. LOCAL ANALYSIS

5.1. The cohomology of \mathcal{M}^\times near boundary points. Let $A[X]$ be the group defined by

$$A[X] = \text{im}[H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathcal{O}^\times)].$$

Let $X \subsetneq Y$ be a connected open subset of a smooth and connected complex surface Y . Fix $P \in \overline{X} \setminus X$. Let \mathcal{V}_P denote the filter of all open neighborhoods of $P \in Y$. Fix any abelian sheaf F on X . For each integer $i \geq 0$ let $H^i(X, F)_P$ be defined by

$$H^i(X, F)_P = \lim_{U \in \mathcal{V}_P} H^i(X \cap U, F).$$

Here we are interested in the case $i = 1$ and either $F = \mathcal{M}^\times$ or $F = \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathcal{O}^\times$. We also want to study the image of the natural map

$$A_{X,P} = \text{im}[H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)_P \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times/\mathcal{O}^\times)_P].$$

We consider a class of boundary points P for which $A_{X,P}$ has \mathbb{Z} as a direct factor and in particular it is non-zero. We say that X is *pseudoconcave* at P if there is $U \in \mathcal{V}_P$ and a closed analytic subset D of U such that D is biholomorphic to a disk, $P \in D$ and $D \cap X = D \setminus \{P\}$. This notion is inspired to the usual notion of pseudoconcave manifold ([1], [2], 2.3).

Proposition 2. *Assume that X is pseudoconcave at P . Then $A_{X,P}$ has \mathbb{Z} as a direct factor.*

Proof.

Fix $U \in \mathcal{V}_P$ such that there is a closed analytic subset $D \subset U$ with D a disc and $D \cap X$ a punctured disk. Thus $H^1(D, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. Lemma 1 gives that $A[X \cap U]$ contains \mathbb{Z} as a direct factor. Moreover, if we take a smaller neighborhood V of X , this factor will map isomorphically onto a factor of $A[X \cap V]$, because the map $H^1(D, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^1(D \cap V, \mathbb{Z})$ is injective (the loop around P inducing a generator of $H^1(D, \mathbb{Z})$ gives a non-torsion element of $H^1(D \cap V, \mathbb{Z})$).

□

Now we describe a cheap way to produce complex manifolds $X \subsetneq Y$ of dimension $n \geq 2$ and $P \in \overline{X} \setminus X$ such that X is pseudoconcave at P . Let Y be a connected complex manifold. Fix $Q \in Y$ and an open neighborhood U of Q in Y equipped with a biholomorphic map $j : U \rightarrow j(U)$ with $j(U)$ open subset of \mathbb{C}^n . Fix an open and strictly convex neighborhood D of $j(Q)$ in \mathbb{C}^n with $D \subset j(U)$. Set $X := j^{-1}(\overline{D})$. Thus $\overline{X} = Y \setminus j^{-1}(D)$. Fix any $P \in \overline{X} \setminus X$, i.e. any $j(P) \in \partial D$. Since \overline{D} is strictly convex at P , there is a real affine hyperplane H of \mathbb{C}^n such that $H \cap \overline{D} = \{j(P)\}$. Since $n \geq 2$, there is an affine complex line $L \subset H$ such that $P \in L$. Hence there is an open disk A of \mathbb{C} such that $\overline{A} \subset j(U)$. The open subset $j^{-1}(A)$ of Y is biholomorphic to an open disc and $j^{-1}(A) \cap X = j^{-1}(A) \setminus \{P\}$. Thus X is pseudoconcave at P .

5.2. The cohomology of \mathcal{M}^\times on non-compact complex manifolds. In this subsection we give some results and examples on the size of $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ for non-compact spaces. The methods are similar to those used in [7].

Proposition 1. *Fix an integer $i \geq 1$. Let X be a connected and paracompact n -dimensional complex manifold, $n \geq 2$, and f a non-constant holomorphic function on*

X . For each $t \in \mathbb{C}$ set

$$D_t = \{x \mid f(x) = t\}$$

with its scheme structure. Fix $\mu \in H^i(X, \mathbb{Z})$. For each $t \in \mathbb{C}$ such that D_t has no multiple component let

$$\rho_t : H^i(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^i(D_t, \mathbb{Z})$$

denote the restriction map. Set $G_t := \text{Im}(\rho_t)$.

(i) Fix any $t \in \mathbb{C}$ such that D_t is non-empty, reduced, irreducible and with singular locus of dimension at most $n - 3$. Then there is an inclusion

$$j_t : G_t \hookrightarrow H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$$

of abelian groups.

(ii) Fix a set $I \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ such that D_t is reduced, irreducible and with singular locus of dimension at most $n - 3$ for each $t \in I$. Assume that $\mu_t := \rho_t(\mu)$ is not torsion for each $t \in I$ (case $i \geq 2$) or $\mu_t \neq 0$ for each $t \in I$ (case $i = 1$). For each $t \in I$ set $u_t := j_t(\mu_t)$. Then the elements u_t in $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ obtained using all f_t 's are \mathbb{Z} -independent. Hence $H^i(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ contains a free abelian group with a basis with the same cardinality as I .

Proof.

Fix $t \in \mathbb{C}$ such that D_t is non-empty. Since X is smooth, each local ring $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$, $x \in X$, has depth n . Hence for each $t \in \mathbb{C}$ and each $x \in D_t$, the local ring $\mathcal{O}_{X_t,x}$ has depth $n - 1$. Thus if the singular locus of D_t has codimension at least 2 in D_t , then D_t is a normal complex space ([11] Theorem 1.5 or Exercise 11.10). Hence for every non-empty and connected open subset U of D_t the manifold $U_{\text{reg}} = U \cap (D_t)_{\text{reg}}$ is connected. The assumptions on the singular locus of D_t imply that D_t is locally irreducible and hence one can calculate the divisor of any meromorphic function defined in a small enough neighborhood of any point of D_t .

(a) Fix $t \in I$. To get part (i) it is sufficient to prove $j_t(\rho_t(\eta)) \neq 0$ for each $\eta \in H^i(X, \mathbb{Z})$ such that $\rho_t(\eta) \neq 0$. Let $\{V_\alpha\}$ be an open covering of X such that all finite intersections of elements of V_α and all finite intersections of elements of V_α and D_t are either empty or contractible (and in particular connected). It exists, because we may take a triangulation of X for which D is union of cells. Notice that $\{V_\alpha\}$ is an acyclic covering of X for the sheaf \mathbb{Z} such that $\{V_\alpha \cap D_t\}$ is an acyclic covering of D_t for the sheaf \mathbb{Z} . Thus the Čech cohomology of $\{V_\alpha\}$ with coefficients in \mathbb{Z} computes $H^i(X, \mathbb{Z})$ and the Čech cohomology of $\{V_\alpha \cap D_t\}$ with coefficients in \mathbb{Z} computes $H^i(D_t, \mathbb{Z})$. Let $m = \{m_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i}\}$ be a cocycle computing η with respect to the cover $\{V_\alpha\}$. The maps j_t is defined by letting $j_t(\rho_t(\eta))$ to be represented by the i -cocycle g with coefficients of \mathcal{M}_X^\times with respect to $\{V_\alpha\}$ where

$$g_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i} = (f - t)^{m_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i}}.$$

Since $f - t$ is fixed, the map j_t is a homomorphism of abelian groups. We claim that this cocycle is not cohomologous to zero. Indeed, assume that it is cohomologous to zero. The map j_t commutes with refinements of open coverings of X . Thus (refining if necessary the covering) we may assume the existence of an $(i - 1)$ -cochain $h = \{h_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}}\}$ with respect to $\{V_\alpha\}$ such that $g = \delta(h)$, where δ is the Čech boundary. Let $e_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}}$ be the multiplicity of $h_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}}$ along $D_t \cap V_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}}$; $e_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}}$ is a well-defined integer, because $(D_t)_{\text{reg}} \cap V_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}}$ is connected. Looking at the order of vanishing along D_t we

see that if $V_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i} \cap D_t \neq \emptyset$, then

$$m_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i} = (\delta e)_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i}.$$

Thus the restriction $m|_{D_t}$ is a trivial cocycle with coefficients in \mathbb{Z} with respect to $\{V_\alpha \cap D_t\}$, a contradiction.

(b) Fix $I \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, μ and u_t as in part (ii). Let b be a cocycle computing μ with respect to the cover $\{V_\alpha\}$. Suppose that the elements u_t , $t \in I$, are not \mathbb{Z} -independent. Hence there are finitely many $t_j \in I$, $1 \leq j \leq s$, and integers n_j , $1 \leq j \leq s$, such that the cochain g' defined by

$$g'_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i} = \prod_{j=1}^s (f - t_j)^{n_j m_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i}}$$

is cohomologous to zero and at least one of the n_j is not zero. Thus (refining if necessary the covering) we may assume the existence of an $(i-1)$ -cochain h' with respect to $\{V_\alpha\}$ such that $g' = \delta h'$. We refine the covering $\{V_\alpha\}$ so that finite intersections of V_α and D_{t_j} , $1 \leq j \leq s$, are either empty or connected and that $V_\alpha \cap D_x \cap D_y = \emptyset$ for all α and all $x, y \in \{t_1, \dots, t_s\}$ such that $x \neq y$. Fix $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. For each open set $V_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i}$ such that $V_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i} \cap D_{t_j} \neq \emptyset$ the function $g'_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i}$ has order of vanishing (or pole) $n_j m_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i}$ at a general point of $V_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_i} \cap D_{t_j}$. Call $c_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}}$ the order of vanishing or pole of $h'_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}}$ at a general point of $V_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}} \cap D_{t_j}$ with the convention that this order is zero if $V_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}} \cap D_{t_j} = \emptyset$. We get a $i-1$ cochain $c = \{c_{\alpha_0 \dots \alpha_{i-1}}\}$ for the sheaf \mathbb{Z} with respect to the cover $\{V_\alpha \cap D_{t_j}\}$ such that

$$\delta(c) = n_j \rho_{t_j}(b)$$

and therefore $n_j \rho_{t_j}(\mu) = 0$. The universal coefficient theorems gives that $H^1(D_{t_j}, \mathbb{Z})$ has no torsion. Hence μ_{t_j} is not torsion, even in the case $i = 1$. Since $\rho_{t_j}(\mu)$ is not a torsion class, we get $n_j = 0$. Since this is true for all $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, we get a contradiction and prove part (ii). \square

In some particular cases we may find a set $I \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ as in part (b) of Proposition 1 and with cardinality 2^{\aleph_0} (even when $H^i(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is a finitely generated abelian group). We give the following example.

Example 2. Fix an $(n-1)$ -dimensional connected Stein manifold Y such that $H^1(Y, \mathbb{Z}) \neq 0$, an open subset $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ and $a \in \Omega$. Set $X := \Omega \times Y$ and $f := \pi_1$, where $\pi_1 : X \rightarrow \Omega$ denotes the projection. We may take $I := \Omega$. Hence I has cardinality 2^{\aleph_0} . Since Y and Ω are Stein spaces, X is a Stein space. Hence $H^k(X, \mathcal{O}) = 0$ for all $k \geq 1$. Thus the exponential sequence gives $H^k(X, \mathcal{O}^\times) \cong H^{k+1}(X, \mathbb{Z})$ for all $k \geq 1$. Since Ω is an open subset of \mathbb{C} , we have $H^m(\Omega, \mathbb{Z}) = 0$ for all $m \geq 2$. Hence if Ω is simply connected and $H^2(Y, \mathbb{Z}) = H^3(Y, \mathbb{Z}) = 0$, then Künneth's formula gives $H^2(X, \mathbb{Z}) = H^3(X, \mathbb{Z}) = 0$. Thus $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ and $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}^\times)$ are both trivial. Thus $H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times) \cong H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$.

6. OPEN QUESTIONS

Are the functors $X \mapsto H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times)$ representable and can interesting birational invariants be extracted from these groups? Are there classes in $H^1(X, \mathcal{M}^\times / \mathcal{O}^\times)$ that do not come from any divisor from via the map B ? This question concerns the question of the acyclicity of the intersection over all irreducible divisors Y of the sheaf \mathcal{C}_Y found

in equation (5). This question would be especially interesting on a complex manifold without global divisors.

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Edoardo Ballico, Dept. of Mathematics, University of Trento, 38123 Povo (TN), Italy, ballico@science.unitn.it

Oren Ben-Bassat, Department of Mathematics, University of Haifa, Mount Carmel, Haifa 31905, Israel, oren.benbassat@gmail.com